<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.      (Previously Presented) A configuration management system comprising:

a configuration store that stores persisted information associated with an application, the persisted information comprising configuration information and dependency information; and,

a configuration service component that manages access to the configuration store, the configuration service component employing security at per-setting granularity.

2.      (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration service component receives a manifest associated with the application, the manifest comprising at least one of configuration and dependency information associated with the application, and the configuration service component stores at least some of the manifest information in the configuration store.

3.      (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the manifest is based, at least in part, upon a schema.

4.      (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the schema is XML-based.

5.      (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the manifest employing at least one of strong typing, validation, and assertions.

6.      (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the configuration service component compiles at least one of manifest information into a namespace, the configuration service component providing access to the namespace.

7.      (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a configuration management engine that facilitates management of at least some of the configuration information.

8.      (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, the configuration service component facilitating access to a legacy store, the legacy store comprising a registry.

9.      (Canceled)

10.     (Original) The system of claim 1, the configuration service component facilitating at least one management service.

11.     (Original) The system of claim 10, the management service comprising at least one of a group policy component and a roaming component.

12.     (Original) The system of claim 10, the management service facilitating at least one of install, usage, servicing, uninstall, roaming, migration, setup, provisioning, policy, backup and/or restore.

13.     (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an assertion engine that facilitates administration of a validation rule by the configuration service component.

14.     (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a notification handler that provides information associated with a configuration change of the application to at least one of the application and another application.

15.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a legacy handler that facilitates synchronization of the system with a legacy store, the legacy store comprising a registry.

16.    (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration service component facilitates transacted commits for saving related changes together in the configuration store.

17.    (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration service component employs at least one of ACL-based security and role-based security are provided at per-setting granularity.

18.    (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration service component facilitates change logs and history.

19-22. (Canceled)

23.    (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration store comprises a joint engine technology database that stores a settings namespace.

24.    (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein a namespace comprises metadata on settings comprising types, attributes, and user context, the namespace further comprising  instance values of the settings.

25.    (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein at least one of the metadata on the settings and instance values of the settings is stored for each user context.

26.    (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of URI and Xpath can access a setting within a namespace as well as in between namespaces.

27.    (Previously Presented) A configuration management system comprising:
        a local cache that at least temporarily stores changes to configuration information associated with an application, the configuration information comprising information other than dependency information; and,

a configuration engine that facilitates communication of the changed configuration information stored in the local cache to a configuration service component.

28.     (Previously Presented) A method for facilitating configuration management comprising:

receiving a manifest associated with an application, the manifest comprising configuration information and dependency information;

registering the manifest; and,

storing at least some of the manifest configuration information in a configuration store.

29.     (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising compiling a configuration section of the manifest into a namespace.

30.     (Canceled)

31.     (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating configuration management comprising:

providing a manifest, the manifest associated with configuration information and dependency information of a first application;

providing a validation rule for the setting; and,

accessing a configuration setting of an application *via* a configuration service component.

32.     (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising at least one of the following acts:

identifying settings in a namespace associated with the first application;

defining a name, a type, a description and default value for a setting;

defining other metadata for the setting;

providing a validation rule for the setting;

indicating service applicability for the setting; and,

identifying a dependency using an assertion expression.

33.      (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising at least one of the following acts:

accessing a setting associated with the first application; and,

accessing a setting associated with a second application.

34-37. (Canceled)

38.      (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of a configuration management system comprising:

a configuration service component that manages access to a configuration store, the configuration service component comprising an assertion engine component and a legacy handler component, wherein the configuration store stores persisted configuration information associated with an application, the assertion engine component facilitates administration of a validation rule by the configuration service component, and the legacy handler component facilitates synchronization of the configuration store with a legacy store including a registry.

39.      (Previously Presented) A configuration management system comprising:

means for storing configuration information associated with an application;

means for managing access to the means for storing configuration information;

means for facilitating administration of a validation rule; and

means for synchronizing the means for storing configuration information with a legacy store including a registry.